

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims are set forth below. Cancelled and withdrawn claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (previously amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously added), (reinstated - formerly claim #), (previously reinstated), (re-presented - formerly dependent claim #) or, (previously re-presented).

Please AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information collection apparatus which collects information via transmission ~~lines~~ paths from a plurality of information generation apparatuses, wherein each of said information generation apparatus ~~apparatuses~~ apparatuses has a generation-side information storage unit which stores the information generated due to ~~its~~ a specific generation factor, said information collection apparatus comprising:

a table storage unit which stores a priority definition table in which respective priorities of said plurality of information generation apparatuses are defined;


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an information collection unit which refers to the priority definition table upon reception of a notice from an information generation apparatus that is any of said information generation apparatuses and in which ~~the~~ an amount of information stored on said generation-side information storage unit of said information generation apparatus has reached a predetermined amount, and only collects the information stored on the generation-side information storage unit of ~~the relevant said~~ information generation apparatus only when if the priority of ~~the relevant said~~ information generation apparatus is higher than ~~the~~ a preset priority; and

a collection-side information storage unit which stores the information collected by said information collection unit.

2. (ORIGINAL) The information collection apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a substitution control unit which allows any one or more of said information generation apparatuses to act as a substitute to execute the operation of collecting information, that is supposed to be executed by said information collection unit, when a given error has occurred.

3. (ORIGINAL) The information collection apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said substitution control unit allows an information generation apparatus out of said information generation apparatuses with the lowest priority to act as the substitute, to execute the operation of collecting information.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information collection apparatus which collects information via transmission ~~lines~~ paths from a plurality of information generation apparatuses, wherein each of said information generation ~~apparatus~~ apparatuses has a generation-side information storage unit which stores the information generated due to ~~its~~ a specific generation factor, said information collection apparatus comprising:

 an information collection unit which collects only stored generated information with priorities higher than ~~the~~ a preset priority upon reception of ~~a~~ notices sent from ~~any of said~~ corresponding information generation apparatuses ~~in which the~~ based upon an amount of information stored on corresponding said generation-side information storage ~~units~~ unit has ~~reached a predetermined amount~~; and

a collection-side information storage unit which stores the information collected by said information collection unit.

5. (ORIGINAL) The information collection apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the priorities are set separately for each of said information generation apparatuses.

6. (ORIGINAL) The information collection apparatus according to claim 4 further comprising a substitution control unit which allows any one or more of said information generation apparatuses to act as a substitute to execute the operation of collecting information, that is supposed to be executed by said information collection unit, when a given error has occurred.

7. (ORIGINAL) The information collection apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said substitution control unit allows an information generation apparatus out of said information generation apparatuses with the lowest priority to act as the substitute, to execute the operation of collecting information.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information collection apparatus which collects information via transmission ~~lines~~ paths from a plurality of information generation apparatuses, wherein each of said information generation ~~apparatus~~ apparatuses has a generation-side information storage unit which stores the information generated due to ~~its~~ a specific generation factor, said information collection apparatus comprising:

an information collection unit which, upon reception of a notice sent from an information generation apparatus in which a given error has occurred and from which the notice has been sent responsive thereto, collects information stored on the generation-side information storage unit of ~~any said~~ information generation apparatus, which may be any of the information storage apparatuses ~~upon reception of a notice from the relevant information generation apparatus in which a given error has occurred~~; and

a collection-side information storage unit which stores the information collected by said information collection unit.

9. (ORIGINAL) The information collection apparatus according to claim 8 further comprising a substitution control unit which allows any one or more of said information generation apparatuses to act as a substitute to execute the operation of collecting information, that is supposed to be executed by said information collection unit, when a given error has occurred.

10. (ORIGINAL) The information collection apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said substitution control unit allows an information generation apparatus out of said information generation apparatuses with the lowest priority to act as the substitute, to execute the operation of collecting information.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information generation apparatus which generates information to be collected by an information collection apparatus via a transmission ~~line~~ path, said information generation apparatus comprising:

an information generation unit which generates information due to ~~its~~ a specific generation factor of the information; and

an information storage unit which only stores for collection the generated information ~~only when the relevant~~ if said information has a priority higher than ~~the~~ a preset priority.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium where an information collecting program, with which information is collected via transmission ~~lines~~ paths from a plurality of information generation apparatuses each of which has a generation-side information storage unit that stores information generated due to ~~its~~ a specific generation factor, is recorded, said program for making a computer execute ~~the steps of a process, the process comprising:~~

storing a priority definition table in which respective priorities of said plurality of information generation apparatuses are defined in a table storage unit;

referring to the priority definition table upon reception of notification from an information generation apparatus that is any of said information generation apparatuses, in which the amount of information stored on said generation-side information storage unit of said information generation apparatus has reached a predetermined amount, and only collecting the information stored on the generation-side information storage unit of ~~the relevant~~ said information generation apparatus ~~only when if~~ the priority of ~~the relevant~~ said information generation apparatus is higher than ~~the~~ a preset priority; and

storing the collected information in a collection-side information storage unit.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium where an information generating program, with which information to be collected by the information collection apparatus via a transmission ~~line~~ path is generated, is recorded, said program for making a computer execute ~~the steps of a process, the process comprising:~~

generating information based on a specific generation factor of the information; and only storing for collection the generated information ~~only when the relevant if said~~ information has a priority higher than ~~the~~ a preset priority.

14. (NEW) An information collection method for centrally collecting log information from log generating computer systems, the method comprising:

at a collecting computer system, receiving notices from the log generating computer systems indicating that a respective log is available for collection, and responsive to the notices collecting logs only from the notice-sending log generating computer systems that have a priority at the collecting computer system that is higher than a preset priority.

15. (NEW) An information collection method according to claim 14, wherein a log of a given log generating computer is prioritized for collection relative to another log of the given log generating computer based on at least one of predefined priorities of the respective logs and categories of occurrences captured by the respective logs.

16. (NEW) An information collection method according to claim 15, wherein a log comprises entries corresponding to occurrences on its respective log generating computer, and where some occurrences are errors on such log generating computer.

17. (NEW) An information collection method according to claim 15, wherein a log becomes available for collection at a log generating computer system based on a size of the log.

18. (NEW) An information collection method according to claim 16, wherein a log is collected or made available for collection based on a size of the log.

19. (NEW) A method of collecting information on a network from a plurality of log generating computer systems, comprising:

on each of the log generating computer systems each having a plurality of different logs:
responsive to detection of occurrences of errors and other logged events,
entering a log entry into one of the logs of a type corresponding to a type of the respective error or other logged event; and

based on a size and priority of one of the logs of the log generating computing system, causing the log to be available to be collected by a central collecting computer that collects logs from the log generating computer systems; and

on a log collecting computer system, storing a threshold collection priority, and collecting or not collecting the logs available for collection by comparing the threshold collection priority to collection priorities of the log generating computer systems having the logs available for collection.